

Nēnē are Endangered

- The nēnē is Hawai'i's state bird.
- The nēnē that are flying around neighborhoods are wild.
- Nēnē are endangered species and are protected by state and federal laws.
- Nēnē once lived on all the main Hawaiian islands.
- By the 1950s there were only about 30 nēnē left in the wild.
- After much conservation effort, there are now about 450 to 500 birds on Maui

Nēnē Biology

- Other names for nēnē are Hawaiian goose (common name) and *Branta sandvicensis* (scientific name).
- Nēnē breeding season is from October through April. They nest on the ground and lay 2 to 5 eggs.
- The major cause of death in wild nēnē is predation by mongooses, cats and dogs. People can help by taking unwanted pets to the Humane Society and not releasing them in the wild.
- Nēnē eat primarily young grass shoots, succulent herbs and seeds. They also eat buds, flowers, fruits and occasionally invertebrates.



The State Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Haleakalā National Park, UH Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partner to actively ensure the survival of nēnē on Maui and Moloka'i.

Nēnē in Your Neighborhood



This brochure was paid for by donations from the Friends of Haleakalā National Park, Inc. Adopt-A-Nēnē program.

You can Adopt-A-Nēnē at www.fhnp.org



Maui and Moloka'i



Why Are They Here?

Nēnē were once extirpated (completely gone) from Maui. In the 1960s and 1970s, Nēnē were released into Haleakalā Crater. Some of the offspring of these nēnē are now flying throughout Haleakalā Crater and from Kula to Kaupō.

The cold, wet weather at Haleakalā proved to be unsuitable for young nēnē. In the late 1980s state and federal wildlife biologists began to look for other areas for nēnē to live. A release site was created on the west Maui mountains in 1995. These birds are now flying all over west Maui—from Nāpili to Kahakuloa to Wailuku to Olowalu to Lahaina.

Through *Safe Harbor Agreements*, release sites were created at Pu'u O Hoku Ranch, on Moloka'i in 2001 and at Pi'iholo Ranch, Makawao on Maui in 2004. Nēnē from Pu'u O Hoku Ranch are flying throughout east Moloka'i. Nēnē from Pi'iholo Ranch are flying around Upcountry Maui.

True or False

- Nēnē are found only in Haleakalā crater.
False. Nēnē are now found in all areas of Maui and Moloka'i.
- Nēnē cannot fly.
False. Nēnē are excellent fliers. This is why they are now found in all areas.
- Nēnē like water.
True. Nēnē actually love water, as all geese do. Nēnē also like very short grass, which is why they are seen on lawns, parks, golf courses, and other places with short grass and water.



Safe Harbor Agreements

Safe Harbor Agreements (SHAs) are voluntary arrangements between a private landowner, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

These agreements promote the voluntary management for federally listed threatened and endangered species by assuring the landowner that no additional future regulatory restrictions will be imposed on the landowner.

For more information on SHAs in Hawai'i go to:
www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/safeharbors/index.html



How You Can Help

- **Keep them wild.** Do not give them any food or water.
- **Give them space.** Getting too close can disturb nēnē. If the birds move when you move, you are too close.
- **Keep them safe.** Even the most trained pets can disturb nēnē. Please keep your pets away from these birds.
- **Contact Wildlife Officials.** Wildlife officials need to know nēnē movements to keep track of their survival.

Maui 984-8100

Moloka'i 553-1746

